

(Washington, D.C.) Congressman Tim Ryan today joined a majority of his colleagues in the House of Representatives and approved bipartisan legislation that will strengthen environmental educational experiences for America's school children both in and out of the classroom.

The bill, No Child Left Inside Act, improves existing environmental education programs by providing states with resources to train teachers, develop research based programs and create environmental literacy plans to ensure that students understand the role of the environment as a natural resource.

"We need to make sure that in addition to math and science education, environmental education takes center stage in education. We need our students to be more physically active, and this bill will do that," said Congressman Ryan. **"Environmental education will lead our students to want to study science, and being outdoors will raise their awareness of the environment and the need to preserve it."**

This bill will enable schools and states to enhance and expand environmental education programs by extending the National Environmental Education Act of 1990, which provides funding for teacher training and support programs. States will be able to develop and implement academic standards for environmental education, and states and schools will be able to use outdoor environmental activities as part of their academic curricula. This bill also

creates a competitive grant program to help non-profits, state and local education agencies, and institutions of higher education create and strengthen state environmental literacy plans.

The No Child Left Inside Act is supported by a broad coalition of environmental and education organizations including the National Wildlife Association and the YMCA of the USA.

“Getting children outdoors, especially in an educational setting, is a win-win situation for schools, students and families. This is ‘out of the box’ education, and I support it whole-heartedly.”